(vii) Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) has been launched to bring about reforms in electricity distribution in the States.

Villages electrified in U.P.

4290. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in the State of U.P. which have been electrified and pumpsets energized on the 31st March, 2003;

(b) the number of villages in District Azamgarh which are yet to be electrified and by when these are likely to be covered; and

(c) what steps have been taken to ensure that electricity supply is continuously provided to the villagers during harvesting season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) According to Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (UPPCL), 56746 villages have been declared electrified (Provisional) and 799020 pumpsets energized as on 31.03.2003.

(b) It has been further reported by UPPCL that 2254 villages are remaining to be electrified in Azamgarh district. These villages would be electrified as and when the financial position of UPPCL improves.

(c) The supply to rural areas have been increased from 8.00 hours to 9.00 hours w.e.f. 1.04.2003 for harvesting and threshing purpose.

Hydro-power projects under construction

†4291. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of hydro-power projects under construction in the country at present along with their total capacity;

(b) the number of hydro-power projects likely to be started in this year; and

(c) the quantum of power estimated to be generated from such projects?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.